

Social Indicators March 2020

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Disclaimer

Caution is advised when using monthly data for the Territory, which is often derived from small samples and highly volatile. Although all due care has been exercised in the preparation of this material, no responsibility is accepted for any errors or omission.

More information:

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Schools, Australia, 2019

The following is a summary of information on students and schools in the Northern Territory in 2019, unless otherwise stated.

- There were a total of 189 schools in the Territory, comprised of 151 or 79.9 per cent Government schools, 20 or 10.6 per cent Independent schools and 18 or 9.5 per cent Catholic schools.
- There were 40 668 total students (full-time and part-time) in schools, an average annual decrease of 2.7 per cent since 2016. Territory students represented 1.0 per cent of national students.
- Of total students, 29 957 or 73.7 per cent attended Government schools, 5865 or 14.4 per cent attended Independent schools and 4846 or 11.9 per cent attended Catholic schools. Nationally, 65.7 per cent of students attended Government schools, 14.8 per cent attended Independent schools and 19.5 per cent attended Catholic schools.
- Of the total number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students who attended Government schools, 64.3 per cent attended primary schools and 35.7 per cent attended secondary schools. Nationally, 61.7 per cent attended primary schools and 38.2 per cent secondary schools (Table 1).
- Of the FTE students attending non-Government schools, 50.0 per cent attended primary schools and 50.0 per cent attended secondary schools. These figures are generally consistent with the national results of 49.4 per cent and 50.6 per cent, respectively (Table 1).
- In 2019, 81.4 per cent of Aboriginal students attended Government schools, compared to the national rate of 83.7 per cent.
- Aboriginal students represented 43.2 per cent of total Government school students, compared to 7.4 per cent nationally (Table 2).
- The Government schools FTE student to teaching staff ratio was 11.8, compared to the national ratio of 14.2.
- The apparent retention rate for full-time students in year 10 to 12 was 64.1 per cent, a 1.0 percentage point decrease in comparison to 2018. Nationally, the retention rate was 82.0 per cent, a 0.8 percentage point decrease compared to 2018 (Figure 1).
- The apparent retention rate for full-time Aboriginal students in year 10 to 12 was 43.8 per cent, compared to the national rate of 60.0 per cent (Figure 1).

Table 1: Selected characteristics of FTE students in Government and non-Government schools, 2019

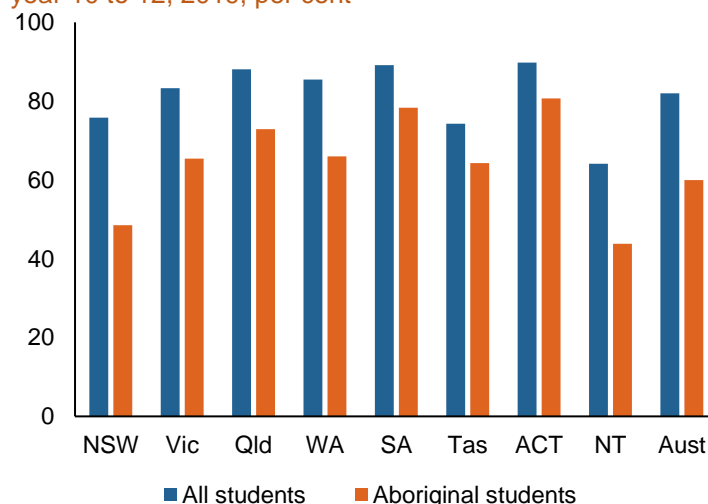
	No. '000	Primary %	Secondary %
Government			
NSW	804.6	61.6	38.4
Vic	631.1	61.4	38.6
Qld	559.2	60.9	39.1
WA	284.7	62.1	37.9
SA	175.7	65.1	34.9
Tas	56.5	59.4	40.6
ACT	44.1	60.0	40.0
NT	29.8	64.3	35.7
Australia	2 585.5	61.7	38.3
Non-Government			
NSW	425.8	49.4	50.6
Vic	356.4	48.9	51.1
Qld	273.6	49.8	50.2
WA	138.4	47.1	52.9
SA	95.1	52.6	47.4
Tas	24.6	49.8	50.2
ACT	28.1	51.3	48.7
NT	10.7	50.0	50.0
Australia	1 352.7	49.4	50.6

Table 2: Aboriginal students in Government and non-Government schools, proportion of total students, 2019¹

	Government		Non-Government	
	'000	%	'000	%
NSW	64.8	8.0	12.1	2.8
Vic	14.4	2.3	2.8	0.8
Qld	58.1	10.4	11.6	4.2
WA	23.5	8.2	4.6	3.3
SA	11.6	6.6	1.6	1.7
Tas	6.1	10.6	1.5	6.1
ACT	1.7	3.9	0.5	1.9
NT	12.9	43.2	3.0	27.6
Australia	193.1	7.4	37.6	2.8

1 Students include FTE and part-time students.

Figure 1: Apparent retention rate for FTE students in year 10 to 12, 2019, per cent²



2 Apparent retention rate for FTE students in year 10 to 12 is the proportion of FTE students in year 10 in 2017 that remained in the schooling system until year 12 in 2019.

Source data in Schools, Australia, 2019: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No 4221.0

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Recorded Crime – Offenders, 2018-19

The following is a summary of information on alleged offenders who were proceeded against by police in the Northern Territory in 2018-19, unless otherwise stated.

- There was a total of 10 871 offenders, with an offender rate of 5192 per 100 000 persons. While this represents the highest offender rate across all jurisdictions, and is followed by South Australia with a rate of 2900 (Figure 2), this is a 13.0 per cent improvement on total offenders recorded in the Territory in 2017-18.
- The most common principal offence types were, public order offences (includes disorderly and offensive conduct), at 35.1 per cent, followed by acts intended to cause injury (includes assault), at 24.7 per cent, and illicit drug offences (includes possession of and dealing), at 12.6 per cent. Nationally, the most common principal offences were acts intended to cause injury, at 19.9 per cent, followed by illicit drug offences, at 19.5 per cent, and public order offences, at 13.6 per cent (Table 3).
- In 2018-19, 71.3 per cent of offenders were male. Public order offences were the most common principal offences for male offenders, with a total of 2296 offences, representing 29.6 per cent of total offences. Public order offences were also the most common principal offences for female offenders at 48.5 per cent of total offences.
- Offenders aged between 25 and 29 comprised the largest proportion of offenders, at 15.6 per cent, followed by offenders aged 20-24 and 30-34 years. This compares nationally to offenders aged 20-24, followed by 15-19 and 25-29 years.
- There were 765 youth offenders (persons aged 10 to 17 years) in 2018-19, with an offender rate of 2964 per 100 000 youths. This represents the highest offender rate across all jurisdictions, followed by New South Wales with 2372. Total youth offenders increased by 6.4 per cent since 2017-18, compared with a decrease of 7.3 per cent nationally.
- The most common youth principal offence types were unlawful entry with intent, at 35.6 per cent, followed by acts intended to cause injury at 27.3 per cent. Nationally, the most common principal offence type was acts intended to cause injury at 19.2 per cent (Table 4).
- There were 17 453 police proceedings, with 41.9 per cent of proceedings for public order offences. An offender may be counted more than once if proceeded against on separate occasions.

Figure 2: Offender rates per 100 000 persons by jurisdiction, 2018-19

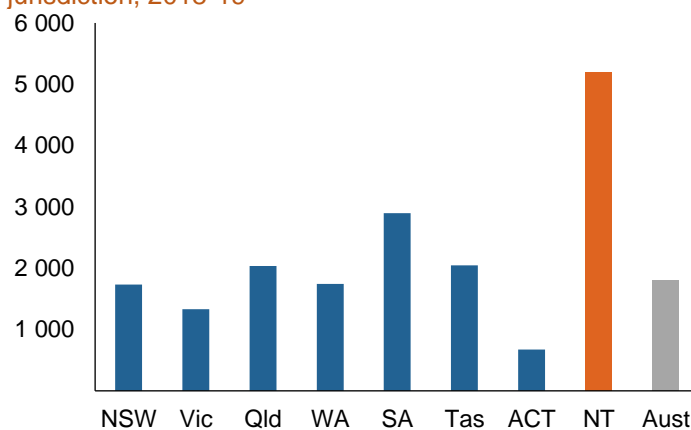


Table 3: Most common principal offence types, 2018-19^{3,4,5}

	NT		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
Public order offences	3 814	35.1	53 560	13.6
Acts intended to cause injury	2 686	24.7	78 530	19.9
Illicit drug offences	1 369	12.6	77 074	19.5
Offences against justice	883	8.1	27 458	7.0
Unlawful entry with intent	551	5.1	12 242	3.1
Weapons/explosives	359	3.3	15 315	3.9
Theft	320	2.9	41 234	10.5
Property damage and environmental pollution	208	1.9	14 629	3.7
Other	690	6.3	46 093	11.7
Total	10 871	100.0	394 466	100.0

3 Other offences includes and homicide and related offences, sexual assault and related offences, dangerous/negligent acts, abduction/harassment, robbery/extortion, fraud/deception and miscellaneous.

4 Figures may not add due to perturbation.

5 Totals include offenders with unknown or undeterminable principal offence and fare evasion.

Table 4: Most common youth principal offence types, 2018-19^{6,7,8}

	NT		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
Unlawful entry with intent	272	35.6	4 040	8.2
Acts intended to cause injury	209	27.3	9 431	19.2
Theft	67	8.8	7 501	15.3
Public order offences	67	8.8	4 285	8.7
Weapons/explosives	31	4.1	1 181	2.4
Property damage and environmental pollution	22	2.9	2 878	5.9
Robbery/extortion	18	2.4	1 521	3.1
Illicit drug offences	18	2.4	5 225	10.6
Other	58	7.6	4 448	9.0
Total	765	100.0	49 180	100.0

6 Other offences include homicide and related offences, sexual assault and related offences, dangerous/negligent acts, abduction/harassment, fraud/deception, offences against justice and miscellaneous.

7 Figures may not add due to perturbation.

8 Totals include offenders with unknown or undeterminable principal offence and fair evasion.

Source data Recorded Crime – Offenders, 2018-19: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 4519.0

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Preschool Education, Australia 2019

The following is a summary of information on preschool programs in the Northern Territory in 2019, unless otherwise stated.

- In 2019, there were 3576 children enrolled in a preschool program in the Territory. Of these, 1279 or 35.8 per cent were Aboriginal children, the highest proportion across Australia. Nationally, Aboriginal enrolments accounted for 5.8 per cent of total enrolments.
- Of the total number of preschool enrolments in the Territory, 2068 were located in inner/outer regional areas and Aboriginal children accounted for 17.6 per cent of these enrolments. There were 1508 enrolments in remote/very remote areas, of which 60.3 per cent or 909 were Aboriginal children.
- Of the total children enrolled in preschool programs, 69.8 per cent attended for 600 hours or more. This was the lowest attendance rate of all jurisdictions and compares to the national attendance rate of 86.6 per cent (Figure 3).
- The Index of Relative Socioeconomic Disadvantage ranks disadvantage through a comparison with other areas in Australia. Quintile 1 (Q1) represents 20 per cent of the population experiencing the highest level of disadvantage, while Q5 represents the 20 per cent of the population experiencing the lowest level of disadvantage. Of the total children enrolled in the Territory, 902 were from Q1, followed by 463 in Q2, 681 in Q3, 745 in Q4 and 771 in Q5.
- Of the children enrolled for 600 hours or more annually from Q1, 33.0 per cent attended. This compares with 76.0 per cent of children in Q2, 79.1 per cent in Q3, 84.2 per cent in Q4 and 88.4 per cent in Q5 (Figure 4).
- The attendance rate of Aboriginal children enrolled in a preschool program for 600 hours or more in inner/outer regional areas of the Territory was 72.3 per cent, compared to 78.5 per cent nationally, ranking the Territory fourth amongst all states.
- In remote/very remote areas, the attendance rate for Aboriginal children in the Territory enrolled in a preschool program for 600 hours or more was 30.1 per cent, compared to the national rate of 49.7 per cent, ranking the Territory last amongst all states (Figure 5).

Figure 3: Attendance of children enrolled in 600 hours or more of preschool annually, 2019, per cent



Figure 4: Attendance of Territory children enrolled in 600 hours or more of preschool annually, by socioeconomic status, 2019, per cent

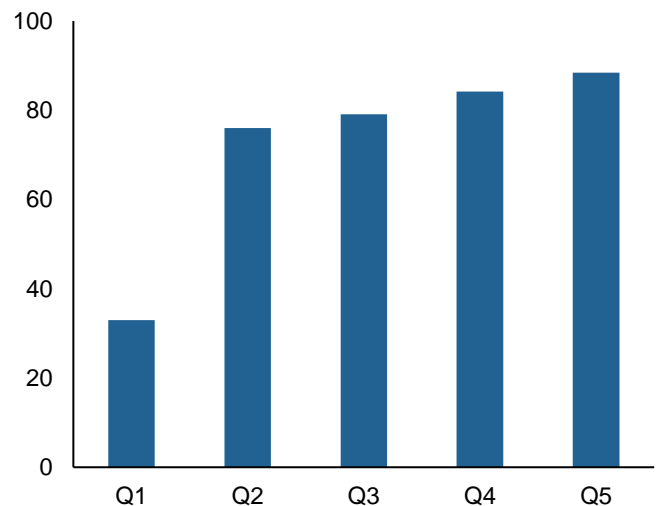
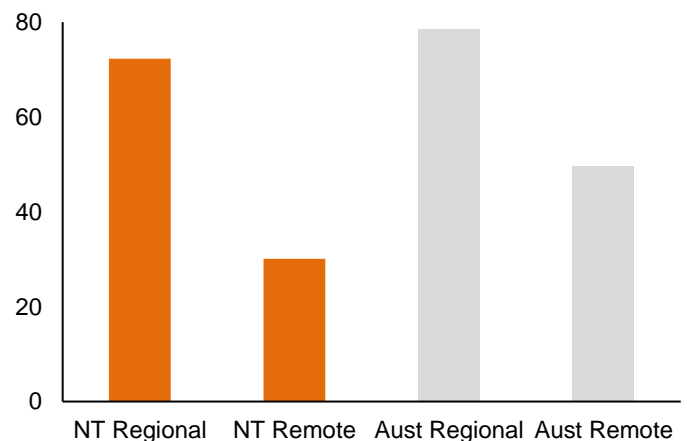


Figure 5: Attendance of Aboriginal children enrolled in 600 hours or more annually, by remoteness area, 2019, per cent



Source data in Preschool Education, Australia, 2019: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No 4240.0

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Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2018-19

The following summarises crime victimisation in the Northern Territory in 2018-19, unless otherwise stated.

- An estimated 9.4 per cent of Territory persons aged 15 and over experienced physical and/or face-to-face threatened assault, compared to the national figure of 5.1 per cent.
- It was estimated that 7300 persons aged 15 and over experienced physical assault, compared with 7200 in 2015-16, representing an average annual increase of 0.5 per cent. Nationally, estimated physical assault increased similarly at 0.4 per cent (Table 5).
- An estimated 6400 persons aged 15 and over experienced face-to-face threatened assault, representing 4.4 per cent of persons. This compares to 2.8 per cent nationally.
- An estimated 4000 or 6.4 per cent of households experienced a break-in, representing 1.7 per cent of national break-ins. This is substantially higher than the Territory's 0.6 per cent share of national households.
- Of the households estimated to experience a break-in, 77.5 per cent reported their most recent incident to the police. This is the fourth highest reporting rate of the jurisdictions and slightly above the national figure of 77.2 per cent (Figure 6).
- Between 2015-16 and 2018-19 estimated attempted break-ins decreased at an average annual rate of 9.0 per cent. This represents the largest decrease across all states and territories and compares to the national figure of 0.8 per cent (Table 6).
- An estimated 3400 or 5.4 per cent of households experienced an attempted break-in, representing 1.9 per cent of total national attempted break-ins.
- An estimated 4800 or 7.7 per cent of households experienced malicious property damage, representing 1.1 per cent of the national figure. Of these households, 58.3 per cent reported their most recent incident to the police.
- An estimated 2200 or 3.5 per cent of households experienced theft from a motor vehicle. This compares to 2.5 per cent nationally.

Table 5: Estimated persons aged 15 and over that experienced physical assault^{9,10}

	2015-16	2018-19	Average annual change
	No.	No.	%
NSW	123 800	139 900	4.2
Vic	118 800	126 300	2.1
Qld	96 200	93 000	-1.1
WA	73 300	50 500	-11.7
SA	27 900	32 500	5.2
Tas	8 700	11 300	9.1
ACT	4 600	6 900	14.5
NT	7 200	7 300	0.5
Australia	462 200	468 200	0.4

9 ACT estimates have a relative standard error of 25 to 50 per cent and should be used with caution.

10 Figures do not add due to perturbation.

Figure 6: Estimated percentage of households that reported the most recent incident of break-in to police, 2018-19¹¹



11 ACT estimate has a relative standard error of 25 to 50 per cent and should be used with caution.

Table 6: Estimated households that experienced attempted break-in^{12,13}

	2015-16	2018-19	Average annual change
	No.	No.	%
NSW	61 700	57 500	-2.3
Vic	59 100	54 200	-2.8
Qld	36 200	46 500	8.7
WA	39 100	43 700	3.8
SA	15 200	15 500	0.7
Tas	5 600	5 100	-3.1
ACT	2 300	4 500	25.1
NT	5 300	4 000	-9.0
Australia	225 700	231 000	0.8

12 ACT 2015-16 estimate has a relative standard error of 25 to 50 per cent and should be used with caution.

13 Figures may not add due to perturbation.

Source data Crime Victimisation, Australia, 2018-19: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No. 4530.

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Northern Territory Crime Statistics, December quarter 2019

The following is a summary of information on offence counts in the Northern Territory in the December quarter 2019 compared to the December quarter 2018, unless otherwise stated.

- Recorded offences against property increased by 198, or 3.6 per cent, to 5674. This increase was primarily driven by increases in house break-ins (126), property damage (81) and theft (68) offences (Table 7).
- Commercial break-ins decreased by 99, or 16.8 per cent, to 491, with the largest decreases in Katherine (-71) and Darwin (-48) (Table 8).
- House break-ins increased by 126, or 20.3 per cent, to 746, primarily driven by increases in Darwin (109) and NT Balance (27) partially offset by a decrease in Alice Springs (-46).
- The number of offences against persons decreased by 32 or 1.5 per cent to 2054. There were 4 recorded homicide and related offences, compared to 6 in the December quarter 2018. Sexual assault and related offences increased by 7, or 7.3 per cent, to 103 (Table 7).
- The number of acts intended to cause injury decreased by 17, or -0.9 per cent, to 1780. This decrease was primarily driven by a decrease in NT Balance (-43), Katherine (-25) and Tennant Creek (-10), partially offset by an increase in Alice Springs (75).
- Of the total number of acts intended to cause injury, 1774 were assaults, of which 60.7 per cent involved domestic violence, 51.1 per cent involved alcohol and 34.6 per cent involved both domestic violence and alcohol.
- The portion of total assaults which involved both domestic violence and alcohol has remained consistent across the December 2017, December 2018 and December 2019 quarters, with domestic violence and alcohol involved in an average of 34.7 per cent of total assaults in the quarters (Figure 7).
- The Northern Territory crime statistics are prepared by the Department of Attorney-General and Justice using data recorded by the Northern Territory Police.

Table 7: Selected recorded offences against property and persons, Northern Territory, December quarter, 2018 and 2019^{14,15,16}

	Dec qtr 2018	Dec qtr 2019	Annual change
	No.	No.	%
Offences against property			
House break-ins	620	746	20.3
Commercial break-ins	590	491	-16.8
Motor vehicle theft and related offences	441	463	5.0
Theft	1 930	1 998	3.5
Property damage	1 895	1 976	4.3
Total	5 476	5 674	3.6
Offences against persons			
Homicide and related offences	6	4	-33.3
Acts intended to cause injury	1 797	1780	-0.9
Sexual assault and related offences	96	103	7.3
Other	187	167	-10.7
Total	2 086	2 054	-1.5

¹⁴ Break-ins include actual and attempted break-ins.

¹⁵ Other includes other dangerous or negligent acts endangering persons, abduction, harassment and other offences, robbery, extortion and related offences.

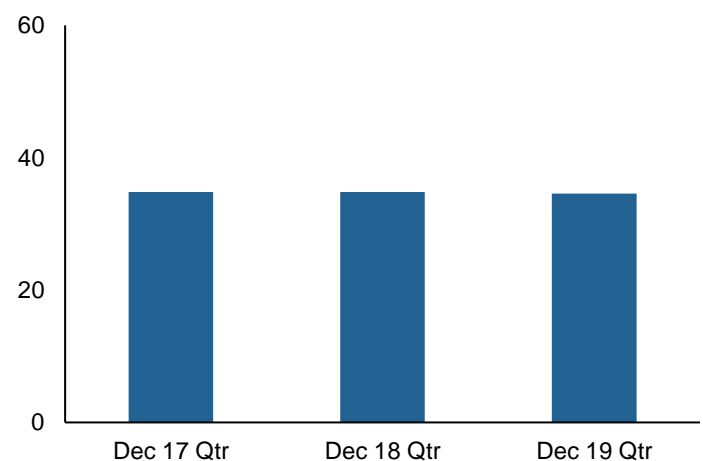
¹⁶ Acts intended to cause injury includes assault and related offences.

Table 8: Recorded commercial break-ins by region, Northern Territory, December quarter, 2019 and 2020¹⁷

	Dec qtr 2018	Dec qtr 2019	Annual change
	No.	No.	%
Darwin	128	80	-37.5
Palmerston	28	27	-3.6
Alice Springs	101	115	13.9
Katherine	100	29	-71.0
Tennant Creek	19	49	157.9
Nhulunbuy	1	2	100.0
NT Balance	213	189	-11.3
Total	590	491	-16.8

¹⁷ NT Balance is the area of the Northern Territory that lies outside of the six urban centres of Darwin, Palmerston, Alice Springs, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Nhulunbuy.

Figure 7: Portion of total assaults associated with both domestic violence and alcohol, December 2017 to December 2019 quarters, per cent



Source data in Northern Territory Crime Statistics, December 2019: Department of Treasury and Finance, NTPFES

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Criminal Courts, Australia, 2018-19

The following is a summary of information on defendants in criminal courts in the Northern Territory during 2018-19, unless otherwise stated.

- In 2018-19, 10 804 defendants were finalised at all court levels. This represents a decrease of 2.4 per cent when compared with 2017-18. Nationally, there was a decrease of 2.8 per cent over the same period.
- Of the total number of defendants finalised, 89.1 per cent or 9628 were finalised in Magistrates' Courts, 6.9 per cent or 750 in Children's Courts and 4.0 per cent or 430 in Higher (Supreme and Intermediate) Courts.
- The most common offences heard before the Magistrates' Courts were traffic and vehicle regulatory offences at 32.6 per cent, followed by acts intended to cause injury at 24.1 per cent and offences against justice at 13.4 per cent. Nationally, traffic and vehicle regulatory offences were also most common at 37.3 per cent (Table 9).
- The most common offences heard before the Children's Courts were unlawful entry with intent at 30.9 per cent, followed by acts intended to cause injury at 22.1 per cent and theft at 14.4 per cent. Nationally, the most common offence was acts intended to cause injury at 22.8 per cent (Table 10).
- The most common offences heard before a Higher Court were acts intended to cause injury at 29.1 per cent, followed by illicit drug offences at 27.9 per cent and sexual assault and related offences at 18.4 per cent. Nationally, illicit drug offences were most common at 27.9 per cent (Table 11).
- Of the 9628 defendants proven guilty, 78.5 per cent were male, 21.2 per cent were female and 0.2 per cent were organisations. This compares to 75.2 per cent for males, 23.8 per cent for females and 0.7 per cent for organisations nationally.
- The most common age bracket for defendants found guilty was 25-29 years with 1620 or 16.8 per cent of defendants found guilty, followed by 20-24 years with 1563 or 16.2 per cent and 30-34 years with 1479 or 15.4 per cent. The median age of defendants found guilty was 31.0, slightly below the national median age of 32.0.
- Of the Territory's 7118 finalised defendants, excluding traffic offences (traffic and vehicle regulatory offences are not reported by Aboriginal status), 5611 or 78.8 per cent were Aboriginal.

Table 9: Defendants finalised in Magistrates' Courts by principle offence, 2018-19^{18, 19}

	NT		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
Traffic and vehicle offences	3 138	32.6	196 236	37.3
Acts intended to cause injury	2 318	24.1	66 687	12.7
Offences against justice	1 291	13.4	42 275	8.0
Illicit drug offences	540	5.6	56 500	10.7
Dangerous or negligent acts	489	5.1	23 427	4.4
Theft	359	3.7	41 680	7.9
Other	1 499	15.6	99 804	18.9
Total	9 628	100.0	526 716	100.0

18 Other combines all remaining principle offence categories including public order offences, property damage and unlawful entry with intent.

19 Figures may not add due to perturbation.

Table 10: Defendants finalised in Children's Courts by principle offence, 2018-19^{20, 21}

	NT		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
Unlawful entry with intent	232	30.9	4 053	13.4
Acts intended to cause injury	166	22.1	6 886	22.8
Theft	108	14.4	6 056	20.1
Traffic and vehicle offences	63	8.4	1 628	5.4
Dangerous or negligent acts	56	7.5	1 077	3.6
Weapons or explosives	31	4.1	962	3.2
Other	97	12.9	9 520	31.5
Total	750	100.0	30 178	100.0

20 Other combines all remaining principle offence categories including property damage, public order offences and robbery/extortion.

21 Figures may not add due to perturbation.

Table 11: Defendants finalised in Higher Courts by principle offence, 2018-19^{22, 23}

	NT		Australia	
	No.	%	No.	%
Acts intended to cause injury	125	29.1	4 047	21.1
Illicit drug offences	120	27.9	5 354	27.9
Sexual assault and related offences	70	16.3	3 538	18.4
Robbery or extortion	41	9.5	1 652	8.6
Dangerous or negligent acts	32	7.4	448	2.3
Property damage and environmental pollution	15	3.5	338	1.8
Other	27	6.3	3 843	20.0
Total	430	100.0	19 205	100.0

22 Other combines all remaining principle offence categories.

23 Figures may not add due to perturbation.

Source data in Criminal Courts, Australia, 2018-19: Department of Treasury and Finance, ABS Cat. No 4513.

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Youth detention population in Australia, 2019

The following is a summary of information on the youth detention population aged 10-17 in the Northern Territory on an average night during the June quarter 2019, unless otherwise stated.

- There were 28 people aged 10-17 in youth detention on an average night during the June quarter 2019 (Table 12).
- Of the total number of people, 89.3 per cent or 25 were male and 7.1 per cent or 2 were female. Nationally, males accounted for 89.2 per cent and females 11.0 per cent.
- The rate of young people in detention on an average night was 10.7 per 10 000 relevant population, the highest of all jurisdictions and compares to the national rate of 3.26 per 10 000 population (Figure 8).
- Of the total number of people aged 10-17 in youth detention on an average night, 96.4 per cent or 27 were Aboriginal, this was the highest rate of all jurisdictions followed by Western Australia and Queensland with 78.6 per cent and 75.3 per cent, respectively. Nationally, 56.8 per cent of people were Aboriginal.
- The rate of young Aboriginal people aged 10-17 in detention on an average night was 23.6 per 10 000 relevant population, the fourth lowest jurisdiction (noting ACT value not provided) and below the national rate of 31.4 (Figure 9).
- Of the total number of young people aged 10-17 in youth detention on an average night, 19 or 67.9 per cent were unsentenced, similar to the national rate of 70.3 per cent (Table 12). Unsentenced youth in the Territory were all Aboriginal.
- Of the total number of people in youth detention on an average night in the June quarter 2019, 8 or 28.6 per cent were sentenced. This is similar to the national rate of 29.7 per cent (Table 12).
- Due to the utilisation of the Juvenile Justice National Minimum Dataset for the first time, Northern Territory data are not comparable to previous editions of the youth detention population in Australia.

Table 12: Youth detention population aged 10-17 in the June quarter 2019, unsentenced and sentenced²⁴

	Unsentenced		Sentenced		Total No.
	No.	%	No.	%	
NSW	135	66.5	68	33.5	203
Vic	91	71.1	37	28.9	128
Qld	198	82.8	41	17.2	239
WA	76	60.3	50	39.7	126
SA	16	41.0	23	59.0	39
Tas	11	68.8	5	31.3	16
ACT	6	85.7	1	14.3	7
NT	19	67.9	8	28.6	28
Australia	552	70.3	233	29.7	785

²⁴ Figures may not add due to rounding.

Figure 8: Young people aged 10-17 in youth detention on an average night per 10 000 population, June quarter, 2019

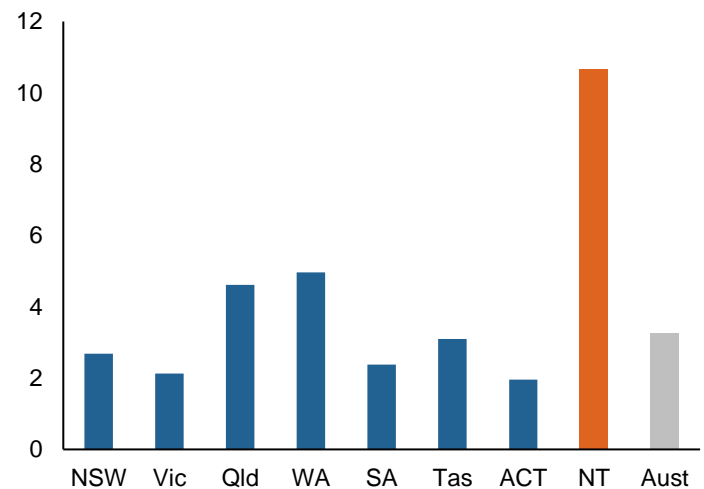
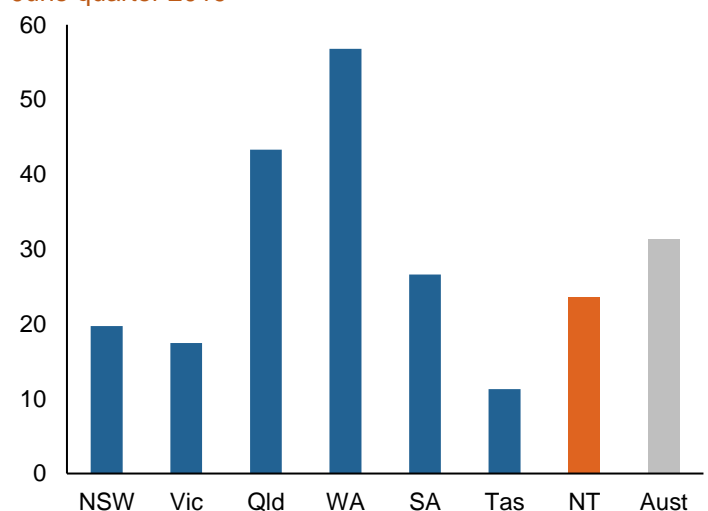


Figure 9: Aboriginal young people aged 10-17 in youth detention on an average night per 10 000 population, June quarter 2019²⁵



²⁵ ACT value not provided.

Source data in Youth detention population in Australia, 2019: Department of Treasury and Finance, AIHW.